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# HOUSE BILL No. 1240

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## DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 4-4-30.

**Synopsis:** County learning networks. Creates the county learning network fund to provide grants to counties to establish or improve county learning networks. Defines "county learning network" to mean an infrastructure that allows residents of a county to pursue certain educational and training opportunities. Provides that the department of commerce shall administer the fund and establish criteria for awarding grants from the fund. Provides that a county must apply for a grant before April 1 of a calendar year and specifies requirements for an application. Provides that the maximum grant that a county may receive from the fund in a state fiscal year is \$100,000. Requires the department of commerce to determine before June 15 of each calendar year: (1) which counties will receive grants; and (2) the amount of the grant each county will receive. Provides for the distribution of grants on July 1 of each calendar year. Appropriates to the county learning network fund \$1,000,000 for the 2001-2002 state fiscal year and \$1,000,000 for the 2002-2003 state fiscal year.

**Effective:** Upon passage; July 1, 2001.

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## Thompson

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January 9, 2001, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government.

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First Regular Session 112th General Assembly (2001)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2000 General Assembly.

## HOUSE BILL No. 1240

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning state offices and administration and to make an appropriation.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1       SECTION 1. IC 4-4-30 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS  
2       A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON  
3       PASSAGE]:

4       **Chapter 30. County Learning Network Fund**

5       **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "county learning network"**  
6       **means an infrastructure that allows residents of a county to pursue**  
7       **a variety of educational and training opportunities, including at**  
8       **least one (1) of the following:**

- 9               (1) Courses and programs for personal development.  
10              (2) Continuing education for professions and occupations.  
11              (3) Programs granting certificates of technical achievement.  
12              (4) Associate degree programs.  
13              (5) Baccalaureate and master's degree programs.

14       **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "department" refers to the**  
15       **department of commerce.**

16       **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the county**  
17       **learning network fund established by section 4 of this chapter.**



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1       **Sec. 4. (a) The county learning network fund is established to**  
 2       **provide grants to counties to establish or improve county learning**  
 3       **networks. The fund shall be administered by the department.**

4       **(b) The fund consists of appropriations from the general**  
 5       **assembly and gifts and grants to the fund.**

6       **(c) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from**  
 7       **money in the fund.**

8       **(d) The treasurer of state shall invest money in the fund not**  
 9       **currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same**  
 10       **manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that**  
 11       **accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.**

12       **(e) Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not**  
 13       **revert to the state general fund.**

14       **Sec. 5. The department may make grants from the fund to**  
 15       **counties for the following purposes related to the establishment or**  
 16       **improvement of county learning networks:**

17       **(1) The development of learning opportunities.**

18       **(2) Soliciting and responding to the requests of county**  
 19       **residents for specific courses and instructors.**

20       **(3) The advertisement and promotion of courses and**  
 21       **programs.**

22       **(4) The recruitment and tracking of students.**

23       **(5) The provision of higher education at times and places**  
 24       **convenient for nontraditional students.**

25       **(6) The employment of staff to collect fees and to enroll and**  
 26       **counsel students.**

27       **(7) The employment of instructors to teach courses and**  
 28       **programs.**

29       **(8) The establishment and maintenance of libraries containing**  
 30       **course curricula and other resources to be shared by**  
 31       **instructors and students.**

32       **(9) The procurement of classrooms or other community**  
 33       **spaces for use in providing instruction.**

34       **(10) The establishment and maintenance of computer labs.**

35       **(11) The acquisition of technology allowing for the delivery of**  
 36       **long distance education from educational institutions across**  
 37       **Indiana to residents of the county.**

38       **(12) Collaborations with any of the following for the sharing**  
 39       **of resources:**

40       **(A) Businesses.**

41       **(B) Educational institutions.**

42       **(C) Nonprofit corporations.**

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**(D) Local units of government.**

**(13) Other similar purposes approved by the department.**

**Sec. 6. (a) To be eligible for a grant under this chapter during a state fiscal year, a county must submit a grant application to the department before April 1 of the calendar year in which the state fiscal year begins.**

**(b) A county's application for a grant from the fund must include the following:**

**(1) A detailed description of the purposes or programs for which the grant is being sought.**

**(2) An estimate of the total cost of the purposes or programs for which the grant is being sought.**

**(3) The amount of funding available from other sources for the proposed purposes or programs.**

**(4) An estimate of the number of county residents who will be impacted by the proposed purposes or programs.**

**(5) The short and long term goals of the existing or proposed county learning network.**

**(6) Other information required by the department.**

**Sec. 7. (a) The department shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to establish criteria for awarding grants to counties under this chapter.**

**(b) The maximum grant that the department may provide to a county under this chapter during a state fiscal year may not exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).**

**(c) Not later than June 15 of each calendar year, the department shall use the criteria established under subsection (a) to determine:**

**(1) the counties that will receive a grant; and**

**(2) the amount of the grant that each county will receive;**

**under this chapter during the state fiscal year of that calendar year.**

**(d) After making the determination required under subsection (c), the department shall immediately send a notice, by mail, to each county that submitted an application under section 6 of this chapter. A notice mailed under this subsection must state:**

**(1) whether the county will receive a grant during the state fiscal year;**

**(2) the amount of the grant, if any, that the county will receive; and**

**(3) that the department will distribute all grants under this chapter on July 1 of the calendar year.**

**(e) The department shall distribute all grants awarded under**



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1 this chapter on July 1 of each calendar year.

2 SECTION 2. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2001] (a) There is  
3 appropriated to the county learning network fund established by  
4 IC 4-4-30-4, as added by this act, one million dollars (\$1,000,000)  
5 from the state general fund beginning July 1, 2001, and ending  
6 June 30, 2002.

7 (b) There is appropriated to the county learning network fund  
8 established by IC 4-4-30-4, as added by this act, one million dollars  
9 (\$1,000,000) from the state general fund beginning July 1, 2002,  
10 and ending June 30, 2003.

11 (c) The money appropriated under this SECTION shall be used  
12 by the department of commerce to make grants under IC 4-4-30,  
13 as added by this act.

14 (d) This SECTION expires July 1, 2003.

15 SECTION 3. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a)  
16 Notwithstanding IC 4-4-30-6(a), as added by this act, a county  
17 seeking a grant under IC 4-4-30, as added by this act, for the state  
18 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, shall submit an application to  
19 the department of commerce not later than June 1, 2001.

20 (b) Notwithstanding IC 4-4-30-7(c), as added by this act, the  
21 department of commerce shall determine:

22 (1) the counties that will receive a grant under IC 4-4-30, as  
23 added by this act, during the state fiscal year beginning July  
24 1, 2001; and

25 (2) the amount of the grant that each county will receive  
26 under IC 4-4-30, as added by this act, during the state fiscal  
27 year beginning July 1, 2001;  
28 not later than June 30, 2001.

29 (c) This SECTION expires July 1, 2001.

30 SECTION 4. An emergency is declared for this act.

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